THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has been taking steps to evolve Pharmacopoeial standards for Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani drugs. For this purpose, the following Committees constituted by the Government are functioning:

(1) Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia Committee;

(2) Unani Pharmacopoeia Committee; and

(3) Siddha Pharmacopoeia Committee.

The Scientific work in connection with standardisation is being done mainly by the following agencies;

1. Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha.

2. Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine.

3. Pharmacopoeial Laboratory of Indian Medicine, Ghaziabad.

Proposal for setting up of separate Medical Universities

230. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up separate medical universities on the pattern of agricultural universities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) The Medical Education Review Committee has made recommendations regarding the setting up of Universities of Health Sciences in order to bring about coordination between various educational and training institutions of the modern and various Indian Systems of Medicine. Nurses, Pharmacists etc. Government are yet to take a final view in the matter.

Demands of the All Railway Catering Association

231. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any charter of demands from the All Railway Catering Association (Northern Railways);

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the employees of the catering service in northern railways were working with black badges on their uniforms; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to fulfil their demands, demand-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) A strike notice along with a charter of demands was received in March 1985 from the General Secretary Rail Mazdoor Union, an unrecognized union and not from the All Railway Catering Association (Northern Railway).

The main demands are regularisation of allotment of railway quarters, supply of terry-cot uniforms and absorption of casual staff, commission-bearers, vendors, etc. In support of their demands, some of the catering staff, particularly those working in Parliament Complex Canteen wore badges while on duty.

As per the extant policy, all grievances of staff are examined on merits irrespective of the source from which they emanate and remedial

measures taken within the administrative and financial constraints. The demands of the catering staff have also been dealt with within the framework of this policy.

Transportation of chalk powder from Porbander

232. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from Amritsar Rubber & General Industries Association, Amritsar and Paints Manufacturers Association, Amritsar regarding acute shortage of wagons from Porbander to Punjab for the transportation of chalk powder;

(b) if so, what are the details of the representations;

(c) whether Government have taken any action in the matter in view of the non-availability of chalk powder to small scale industries;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor and by when the wagons are going to be allotted for transportation of chalk powder to Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representations were received from these associations in March, 85 requesting for allotment of wagons for movement of Chalk Powder from Porbandar to destinations in Punjab.

(c) and (d) The traffic in question is being offered in piecemeal. In Porbandar area, there are other competing demands for block rakes of Soda Ash, Cement etc. Block rakes get loaded preferentially. Despite this, 83 wagons were loaded for Amritsar since January, 1985 leaving no outstanding demands as on 19th July, 1985.

(e) In view of reply to part (c) and (d) above, this does not arise.

Facilities for mentally retarded persons

233. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of mentally retarded persons in each State and Union Territory at present;

(b) what facilities are provided to them and the percentage of those able to avail of these facilities; and

(c) the percentage of persons covered under the facilities living in villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) No data is available to indicate the number of Mentally Retarded person in each State/Union Territory at present. The facilities for mental health patients consist of 21019 beds in 46 mental hospitals, and 2000 to 3000 beds in general and teaching hospitals. Psychiatry units and mental hospitals also operate outpatient clinics which are the main sources of mental health services in most cities. A plan has been drawn up for providing basic mental health facilities through community outreach programmes during the Seventh Five Year Plan. Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare have the following programmes for the rehabilitation of the mentally retarded :—

1. Scheme of assistance to voluntary organisations in the area of disabled.

2 Scheme of scholarships for disable children.